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Fifty-third session
SECOND COMMITTEE

DRAFT BIENNIAL PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE SECOND COMMITTEE FOR 1999-2000

Note by the Secretariat

The General Assembly, in resolution 39/217 of 18 December 1984, paragraph 5, requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Second Committee for consideration and approval each year a proposed biennial programme of work. The draft biennial programme of work of the Second Committee for 1998-2000, which is annexed to the present document, has been prepared on the basis of existing legislative authority. It also takes into account the draft proposals on which the Second Committee has taken action. The information contained in the annex, including that on documentation, will be updated orally by the Secretariat when the draft biennial programme of work for 1999-2000 is considered by the Committee.

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ANNEX

Draft biennial programme of work for the Second Committee for 1999-2000[a]

1999

Item 1. Report of the Economic and Social Council[b]

Target for World Food Programme pledges for the period 2001-2003

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

United Nations Population Award

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund on the United Nations Population Award and Trust Fund (Economic and Social Council decision 1982/112)

Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (article 34 of the Charter)[c]

Item 2. Macroeconomic policy questions

(a) High-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development

Documentation

Report of the ad hoc open-ended working group on a high-level consideration of the topic of financing for development (General Assembly resolution 52/179 and draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.28)

Report of the Secretary-General on the financial crisis and its impact on growth and development, especially in the developing countries (draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.55)

(b) Trade and development

Documentation

Report of the Trade and Development Board (General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX))

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 52/181 on unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries

Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 52/183 on specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries

Report of the Secretary-General on developments in the multilateral trading system and the implementation of the Ministerial Communique of the 1998 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council on access to market (draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.26/Rev.1)

(c) Science and technology for development

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 52/184

(d) External debt crisis and development

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.47

Item 3. Sectoral policy questions

(a) Industrial development cooperation

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (General Assembly resolutions 47/177 and 52/208)

(b) Business and development

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on entrepreneurship and privatization for economic growth and development (General Assembly resolutions 48/180 and 52/209)

Item 4. Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

(a) Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of the Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration and the implementation of the Strategy, including the progress made and constraints therein (draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.40)

(b) Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Human Settlements (General Assembly resolution 32/162 and draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.42)[c]

Report of the Secretary-General on the special session of the Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda (draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.42)

(c) Women in development

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the effective mobilization and integration of women in development (General Assembly resolutions 42/178 and 52/195)[c]

World Survey on the Role of Women in Development (General Assembly resolutions 40/204 and 49/161)[c]

(d) Human resources development

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (General Assembly resolution 52/196)

(e) International migration and development, including the question of the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development to address migration issues

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (General Assembly resolution 52/189)

(f) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the state of preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.23)

(g) Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on proposed themes for the second high-level dialogue of the General Assembly on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership (draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.49)

(h) Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the special session of the General Assembly to review and appraise the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.43)

Item 5. Environment and sustainable development

Documentation

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII))[c]

Report of the Secretary-General on the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 (General Assembly resolution 53/7)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of UNEP on the review of progress made in implementing conventions related to environment and development (draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.17)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.30 entitled "International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon",[c]

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme of Action for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21

Documentation

Relevant section of the report of the Economic and Social Council on the work of the Commission for Sustainable Development on its seventh session, including the recommendations of the Commission on supportive measures and activities which will contribute to the success of the International Year of Ecotourism (General Assembly resolution 47/191 and draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.38 and Council resolution 1998/40)

Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken to accelerate the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme of Action for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.53)

(b) International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (General Assembly resolution 44/236, annex)[c]

Report of the Secretary-General on recommendations on how the United Nations will deal with the reduction of natural disasters after the conclusion of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.30)[c]

(c) Convention on Biological Diversity

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention (General Assembly resolution 51/182 and draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.54)

(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the results of the meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention (General Assembly resolution 51/184)

(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa on the results of the meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention (draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.52)

(f) Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

No advance documentation requested (draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.46)

Item 6. Operational activities for development

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the World Declaration and Plan of Action from the World Summit for Children (A/53/186) (draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.9)

(a) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Secretary-General on the management process of operational activities (draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.8)[c]

Report of the Secretary-General on progress of the pilot phase of the United Nations Development Assistance Network (draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.8)[c]

(b) Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

Documentation

Report of the High-Level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (General Assembly resolution 33/134)[c]

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 52/204 on cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community

Report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation (General Assembly resolution 50/119)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 52/205

Item 7. Training and research

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.44

Item 8. Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/32 and draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.22[c]

Item 9. Prevention of the marginalization of the countries with weak or vulnerable economies of developing countries and of economies in transition in the globalization and liberalization of the world economy

No advance documentation requested (draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.14)

Item 10. Globalization and interdependence

No advance documentation requested (draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.20)

Item 11. Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of measures, recommendations and activities related to the Decade (draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.48)

2000[d]

Item 1. Report of the Economic and Social Council[e]

United Nations Population Award

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund on the United Nations Population Award and Trust Fund (Economic and Social Council decision 1982/112)

Item 2. Macroeconomic policy questions

(a) Trade and development

Documentation

Report of the Trade and Development Board (General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the implementation of draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.34/Rev.1 on the transit environment in the landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours

(b) Commodities

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on world commodity trends and prospects (draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.51)

Item 3. Sectoral policy questions

(a) Industrial development cooperation

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.41

(b) Business and development

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on action against corruption and bribery in international commercial transactions (draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.7/Rev.1)

Item 4. Sustainable development and international economic cooperation:

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on communication for development programmes in the United Nations system (General Assembly resolution 50/130)

Report of the Secretary-General on the state of the preparations for the International Year of Mountains (draft resolution A/53/L.24)

(a) Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (General Assembly resolution 48/181 and draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.13)

(b) Cultural development

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.35

Item 5. Environment and sustainable development

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme of Action for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21

Documentation

Relevant section of the report of the Economic and Social Council on the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its eighth session (General Assembly resolution 47/191)

Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken to accelerate the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme of Action for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.53)

Report of the Secretary-General on ways and means of ensuring effective preparations for the 10-year review of Agenda 21 (draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.53)

(b) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

on the results of the meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention (General Assembly resolution 51/184)

(c) Convention on Biological Diversity

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the results of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (General Assembly resolution 51/182)

(d) Water supply and sanitation

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General containing an assessment of the water supply and sanitation situation in developing countries (General Assembly resolution 50/126)[c]

(e) Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.46)

Item 6. Operational activities for development

Operational activities for development of the United Nations system

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Item 7. Training and research

United Nations University

Documentation

Report of the Council of the United Nations University

Report of the Secretary-General (draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.24/Rev.1)

Notes

[a] The Second Committee will, in accordance with established practice and in pursuance of General Assembly decision 38/429, hold a general debate each year at the beginning of its work.

[b] The list of questions and documentation under this item corresponds to requests for reports from the General Assembly. The list will be finalized after the Economic and Social Council completes its work in 1999.

[c] Report submitted to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.

[d] The programme of work and documentation list for 2000 will be updated in 1999, taking into account the relevant decisions of the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

[e] The list of questions and documentation under this item is only indicative of requests for reports from the General Assembly. The list will be finalized after the Council completes its work in 2000.

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General Assembly

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25 November 1998

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Fifty-third session
Second Committee
Agenda item 91 (c)
Macroeconomic policy questions: commodities

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Second Committee, Mr. Odyek Agona (Uganda), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.5

Commodities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/200 of 21 December 1990, 47/185 of 22 December 1992, 48/214 of 23 December 1993 and 51/169 of 16 December 1996, and stressing the urgent need to ensure their full implementation,

Recognizing that in many developing countries, in particular African countries and least developed countries, the commodity sector remains the principal source of export revenues, the creation of employment, income and savings, as well as a driving force of investment and a contributor to growth and development,

Expressing deep concern about the negative effects of recent unfavourable weather conditions on the supply side of commodity-dependent countries and the effects of the financial crisis on the demand for commodities, as well as the continuing decline of commodity prices, which adversely affect the economic growth of commodity-dependent countries, especially in Africa,

Concerned about the difficulties experienced by the developing countries in financing and implementing viable diversification programmes and in attaining access to markets for the developing countries' commodities,

Emphasizing the necessity for the developing countries, in particular African countries and least developed countries, for a domestic industrial transformation of their commodity production with a view to enhancing productivity and stabilizing and increasing their export earnings, thus promoting the sustainable economic growth of developing countries in their integration into the global economy,

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Taking note of the report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on world commodity trends and prospects,[1]

1. *Notes* the need of the developing countries, in particular the commodity-dependent developing countries, for stable and more predictable commodity prices in the face of instability and decline in real terms of the prices of many commodities;

2. *Emphasizes* the need for developing countries that are heavily dependent on primary commodities to continue to promote a domestic policy and an institutional environment that encourage diversification and liberalization of the trade and export sectors and enhance competitiveness;

3. *Expresses* the urgent need for supportive international policies to improve the functioning of commodity markets through efficient and transparent price formation mechanisms, including commodity exchanges, and through the use of commodity price risks management instruments;

4. *Urges* developed countries to continue to support the commodity diversification and liberalization efforts of developing countries, especially African countries, in a spirit of common purpose and efficiency, *inter alia*, by providing technical and financial assistance for the preparatory phase of their commodity diversification programmes;

5. *Urges* producers and consumers of individual commodities to intensify their efforts to reinforce mutual cooperation and assistance;

6. *Reiterates* the importance of maximizing the contribution of the commodity sector to economic growth and sustainable development, while continuing with diversification efforts, in developing countries, especially in commodity-dependent countries, and, in this respect, stresses that:

(a) International support for the efforts of developing countries towards the industrial transformation of their commodities is required to increase their export revenues and to improve their competitiveness with a view to facilitating their integration into the global economy;

(b) In the context of the process of trade liberalization, the use of trade-distorting policies and practices, including tariff peaks, tariff escalations and non-tariff barriers, should be minimized as they have negative effects on the ability of developing countries to diversify their exports and to undertake the required restructuring of their commodity sector and as they could also adversely impact liberalization measures undertaken by commodity-dependent developing countries;

(c) In the light of the process of multilateral trade liberalization, which has led to the unintended diminution of trade preferences accorded to developing countries, there is a need to take measures, as appropriate and consistent with international obligations, to address that diminution, in particular by strengthening technical assistance to and by addressing supply-side constraints faced by commodity-dependent developing countries, in order to improve the competitiveness of their commodity sector and to overcome difficulties encountered in their diversification programmes;

[1] A/53/319, annex.

(d) In line with Agenda 21[2] and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[3] Governments should ensure that trade and environmental policies are mutually supportive so as to achieve sustainable development; in so doing, their environmental policies and measures with a potential trade impact should not be used for protectionist purposes;

(e) Effective financial cooperation to facilitate the management by commodity-dependent countries of excessive fluctuations in commodity export earnings should be maintained and further pursued;

(f) Technical cooperation in the areas of transfer of new technologies in production processes and training for technical, managerial and commercial staff of developing countries are of paramount importance for quality improvements in the commodity sector;

(g) Expansion of South-South trade and investment in commodities enhances complementarities and offers opportunities for intersectoral linkages within and among exporting countries;

(h) There is a need to promote research and development, to provide infrastructure and support services and to encourage investment, including joint ventures in developing countries engaged in the commodity and commodity-processing sectors;

7. *Encourages* the Common Fund for Commodities, in cooperation with the International Trade Centre, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and other relevant bodies, to direct its commodity development programmes more towards commodity sector diversification projects, as well as to promote commodity market development in developing countries, with particular focus on the needs of least developed countries, and explore effective ways and means of using the resources of the First Account of the Common Fund;

8. *Invites* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, within its mandate, to provide assistance to developing countries on the financing of commodity diversification and to include issues related to commodities in the provision of analytical support and technical assistance to developing countries in their preparation for effective participation in multilateral trade negotiations and in formulating a positive agenda for future trade negotiations;

9. *Also invites* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to consider issues related to commodities in the preparation for its tenth session, to be held in Thailand in the year 2000;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on world commodity trends and prospects;

11. *Decides* to include the question of commodities in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session.

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[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), resolution 1, annex II.

[3] Ibid., annex I.

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Fifty-third session
Second Committee
Agenda item 94 (e)
Environment and sustainable development: implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. David Prendergast (Jamaica), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.16

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/198 of 18 December 1997 and other relevant resolutions relating to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[1]

Reiterating its decision, in conformity with paragraph 17 of its resolution 52/198, to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1998–1999 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies[2] envisaged for that biennium, taking into account the request of the Conference of the Parties at its first session, held in Rome in October 1997,

Noting with satisfaction that a great number of States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified or acceded to the Convention, and confirming its globality and the worldwide support it enjoys,

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Senegal for the generous offer to host the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

[1] A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

[2] Subsidiary bodies as defined in accordance with Article 24 and Article 22, paragraph (c) of the Convention; see ibid.

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Expressing its deep appreciation to the Secretary-General and to all bilateral and multilateral contributors, including intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations, for the contribution and the support they provided to the interim secretariat of the Convention,

Noting with appreciation the work undertaken by the interim secretariat in contributing to the ratification and implementation of the Convention at the national, subregional and regional levels, including in promoting public awareness,

Looking forward to the continued efforts of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in addressing desertification and drought issues in the light of the provisions of the Convention, as well as of the decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties at its first session, held in Rome in October 1997,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[3] on the implementation of Assembly resolution 52/198, in accordance with paragraph 21 thereof, and noting in this context the statement made on 21 October 1998 to the Second Committee of the General Assembly by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on the progress made by all actors in implementing the provisions of the Convention,

1. *Welcomes* the convening of the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at Dakar from 30 November to 11 December 1998, in accordance with paragraph 19 of its resolution 52/198;

2. *Calls upon* all States and other actors to contribute to the successful outcome of the second session of the Conference of the Parties at Dakar;

3. *Also calls upon* all countries that are not yet parties to ratify or accede to the Convention, as soon as possible;

4. *Takes note* that the United Nations, the Convention secretariat and the Government of Germany have signed the headquarters agreement on 18 August 1998, which will be before the Conference of the Parties at its second session for adoption, subject to ratification by the German Parliament;

5. *Invites* the host Government and the Convention secretariat to contribute fully to the relocation of the secretariat and its effective functioning at Bonn, and also invites the secretariat to continue its efforts with a view to finalizing the relocation as soon as possible;

6. *Notes with concern* that the Global Mechanism did not begin operating on 1 January 1998, as indicated by the Conference of the Parties;[4]

7. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the International Fund for Agricultural Development to establish the framework for the separate identity of the Global Mechanism within the Fund, and looks forward to a prompt starting of its activities, in conformity with the provisions of the Convention and relevant decision taken by the Conference of the Parties at its first session;

8. *Urges* all Parties to the Convention to pay promptly and in full in the first month of each year, starting on 1 January 1999, the contributions required for the core budget of the Convention envisaged in the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, so as to ensure continuity in the cash flow required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the subsidiary bodies, the permanent secretariat and the Global Mechanism;

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[3] A/53/516.

[4] ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1, decision 24/COP.1.

9. *Takes note with appreciation* of the financial support already provided on a voluntary basis by some country Parties, and reiterates its appeal to Governments, all interested organizations and the private sector to make promptly further voluntary contributions to support of the activities and functioning of the Global Mechanism;

10. *Calls upon* Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to contribute generously to the General Fund, the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund to be established by 1 January 1999, in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties;[5]

11. *Also calls upon* developing country parties to the Convention to accelerate the process of elaboration and adoption of national action programmes, and calls for the implementation of those adopted through, *inter alia*, the conclusion of partnership agreements, including consideration of non-governmental organizations contributions;

12. *Calls upon* the international community, in particular developed countries and the United Nations system, and invites the multilateral financial institutions and all other interested actors, to support the efforts of affected developing countries in the processes of elaboration and implementation of action programmes to combat desertification, including, as appropriate, interregional programmes and platforms of cooperation, by providing them with financial resources and other forms of assistance;

13. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties at its second session, at Dakar, to facilitate and launch the process of the elaboration and negotiation of an additional regional implementation annex to the Convention for the countries of the Eastern and Central European region, with a view to finalizing it as soon as possible;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the outcome of the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as well as on measures taken for the implementation of decisions adopted by the Conference at that session;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa".

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[5] Ibid., decision 2/COP/1.